

about people who come to his place of business worried about their health care and worried about their future. Thanks.

The other good lesson is, here's a good son. You know, he takes time to worry about his mom—and dad, by the way. Sons and daughters owe that to their parents. They have received a lifetime of love from a mother or father, and they need to repay it by helping understand what's available in this new program. So if you're—I keep saying this, I know, but I strongly believe it. I believe there's personal responsibility in society, and sons and daughters have a personal responsibility to help their mom or dad, just like Ramon did.

You did a fine job. Thank you. *Gracias.*

Mr. Ortiz. *Gracias.*

The President. Sandra Johnson. Now, Sandra Johnson works for the Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, known as SHINE. Is that right? Explain SHINE.

[Sandra Johnson, local coordinator, Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, made brief remarks.]

The President. You know what's a blessing? We got people like you in this country, like Sandra. She comes down here, she says, "What can I do to help. How can I help somebody?"

I love your spirit. Thanks for helping. She represents a lot of other people in this area and around the country who are volunteering.

Ms. Bryan. [Inaudible]—\$22 a month.

The President. There you go. [Laughter] From 350 to 22?

Ms. Bryan. Twenty-two.

The President. Testify. [Laughter]

Ms. Bryan. [Inaudible]

The President. There you go. We're glad you're here, Ms. Bryan. Thank you for coming.

Listen, I hope you've enjoyed this experience. I've asked these good folks to join us to help make the case: One, take a look at what's available; two, help somebody take a look at what's available. That's all we can ask. There's a May 15th deadline coming up, unless you qualify for extra help, in which case you can sign up after May 15th with no penalty. If you don't qualify for extra help, sign

up now. Now's the time. This is a good deal. It's the Government doing its duty to provide modern medicine for our seniors.

I want to thank our panelists. You all did a fantastic job. God bless you all, and God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:47 a.m. in the Asociacion Borinquena de Florida Central, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Tommy Martinez, president, Asociacion Borinquena de Florida Central, Inc.; Sylvia Caceres, southern States regional director, the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration; and Mayor Richard T. Crotty of Orange County, FL, and his son Tyler.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Victims of Identity Theft

May 10, 2006

Identity theft is a serious problem in America. I have just listened to the horror stories from fellow citizens who have had their identities stolen. I listened to their ideas about how the Federal Government can help in the response in not only dealing with those who commit the crime but helping those who have been victimized. And I want to thank you all for joining us. Thanks a lot.

I appreciate Al Gonzales and Chairman Majoras, Deb Majoras, of the FTC for being here, because I just signed an Executive order that has the Attorney General as the Chairman, the Chairman of the FTC as the Vice-Chairman of a coordinating group to make sure that this Government of ours uses our assets in a responsible way, in a good way, to not only put those people who commit identity fraud in jail but to help the victims of identity fraud.

I've signed two pieces of legislation which are important, one of which says that credit companies must issue a credit report once a year free of charge. We're very serious about upholding the law in this administration, and credit companies must look at the spirit and the letter of that law, so that when citizens ask for the free credit report on an annual basis, he or she should be given that free credit report.

I signed law enhancing penalties. Now what we're going to do is make sure that the

13 governmental agencies involved with identity theft have a well-coordinated strategy to help the victims and to put those who commit the theft behind bars.

Again, I want to thank you all very much for helping us understand the issues but, more importantly, telling a story of the emotions and the feelings that you went through during this—difficult periods of your life.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:27 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Tax Legislation

May 10, 2006

The tax cuts we passed in recent years are working to fuel America's economic expansion. Our progrowth policies have helped the economy create more than 5.2 million jobs since August of 2003, and last year, our economy grew faster than that of any other major industrialized nation. By extending key Capital Gains and Dividends tax relief, the House has taken an important step to continue to help hard-working Americans and to keep our economy strong and growing. I appreciate the House Leadership and Chairman Bill Thomas for their hard work.

I urge the Senate to vote swiftly so that I can sign this bill into law and put a stop to a massive tax hike that would be disastrous for small businesses, our economy, and all working Americans.

Executive Order 13402—Strengthening Federal Efforts To Protect Against Identity Theft

May 10, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to strengthen efforts to protect against identity theft, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to use Federal resources effec-

tively to deter, prevent, detect, investigate, proceed against, and prosecute unlawful use by persons of the identifying information of other persons, including through:

(a) increased aggressive law enforcement actions designed to prevent, investigate, and prosecute identity theft crimes, recover the proceeds of such crimes, and ensure just and effective punishment of those who perpetrate identity theft;

(b) improved public outreach by the Federal Government to better (i) educate the public about identity theft and protective measures against identity theft, and (ii) address how the private sector can take appropriate steps to protect personal data and educate the public about identity theft; and

(c) increased safeguards that Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities can implement to better secure government-held personal data.

Sec. 2. Establishment of the Identity Theft Task Force.

(a) There is hereby established the Identity Theft Task Force.

(b) The Task Force shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force;
- (ii) the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, who shall serve as Co-Chairman of the Task Force;
- (iii) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (iv) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (v) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (vi) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (vii) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (viii) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (ix) the Commissioner of Social Security;
- (x) the following officers of the United States:

- (A) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;
- (B) the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- (C) the Comptroller of the Currency;
- (D) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;